# WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 8, NO. 3 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | JULY 1997


"Human beings, unfortunately, tend to respond to negative incentives -- such as dismissal." John P. Young

## Community Boycott Called

# Burrito Heaven — Worker's Hell

### Teresa Jennings

I shall no longer put my money on the counter at Burrito Heaven. I have fairly often enjoyed the food at this local eatery—in fact, just last week I was in the restaurant, thinking here is a place with nutritious, wholesome food that is also very flavorful. But part of my enjoyment of my food comes from the fact that I am eating in an establishment that treats its workers fairly. I have now come to understand that this is not the case at Burrito Heaven.

The owner/management of the restaurant has violated labor laws by taking action against the workforce when they sought to start a union. A clear majority of the workers had given formal indication of or expressed serious interest in their desire to form a union. This prompted the owner to fire two of the leaders in organizing that effort. They were the two most vocal in asking for management accountability. Since then, other workers have been unexplainably dropped from the schedule, have had their hours reduced, and some paychecks have been turning up short. By pitting the workers against each other, he obtained knowledge of who was in leadership and who was interested. He rewarded those who gave him information or who were too fearful to join the organizing effort with increased hours.

The details of the contract they presented to the owner through a union representative centered around the immediate creation of an employee handbook. Management's decisions often seem arbritrary to the workers who don't have a say in the way their workplace operates. More specifically the contract outlined a scheduling process based on seniority; health insurance for those who have worked for six months and have worked more than 20 hours a week; free meals for those who work at least a five hour shift, a half price meal for those who work under five hours, and a free meal for those who get called-in for a shift or held over for any amount of time.

photo by Wendy Ortiz

The Thurston-Lewis Central Labor Council is drafting a letter to the owner(s) asking that they give justification for these actions to the Council. The Council is considering filing an Unfair Labor Practice (ULP) with the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). In the meantime, we ask the community to support the right of working people to organize and join the Olympia Movement for Justice and Peace in boycotting Burrito Heaven.

*****

Do you have a complaint about your working conditions? Do you know of places in this community where working conditions are poor? Do you have good working conditions, but feel that forming and having a union would assist the community by strengthening the working class, creating a network of shared ideals, or building the labor movement for its own sake? There are many valid reasons for establishing unions at the workplace. While often unions are formed when workers work under oppressive working conditions, there are high-minded employers with integrity who do not fear unions; employers who recognize that unionized workers take pride in their work, seek high performance, and wish to negotiate fairly with their employer. These employers work towards union acceptance and building strong relationships with their employees. This recently occurred in our local area with Behavioral Health Resources (BHR), a non-profit social service agency with 160 clinicians, case managers and para-professionals performing interactions with mental health clients.

Some dedicated BHR staff had been engaged in year-long effort to unionize. Then, nearly two years ago, they began to mobilize more seriously. Even though County Administrator, Steve Norstad effectively blocked their first attempt with AFSCME, Council 2, organizing staff did not give up. They were eventually able (with AFSCME's blessing) to bond with Service Employees International Union (SEIU) #1199.

***There are high-minded employers with integrity who do not fear unions; employers who recognize that unionized workers take pride in their work, seek high performance, and wish to negotiate fairly with their employer. These employers work towards union acceptance and building strong relationships with their employees.***

In this instance, volunteer organizing worked. Core organizers kept a newsletter going to the Behavioral Health Resources staff—it was very important to help educate and provide understanding. They felt that the timing was critical as staff began reporting management behaviors. Organizers felt if they moved quickly, something could be done. The BHR organizers began meeting with local public officials for support. Petitions and membership cards were handed out at a general meeting. Public officials wrote letters. A telephone conversation with a consultant got her to be neutral and unopposed, and then linked her with Board Members who were actually in support. Finally, the petitions and letters were presented to the Board at one of their meetings and they were asked for an expedited process. Seventy percent of the staff had signed the petition. A negotiating team has been formed with all departments of the organization represented on the ne-

*(Continued page 11)*

## *Victory!(?)*

# Oly Council Nixes No Sitting Ordinance

### Pat Tassoni

On June 17th, the Olympia City Council was asked to take action on implementing a plan around downtown sidewalks, including a No Sitting On The Sidewalk Ordinance. Councilmember Laura Ware moved, seconded by Councilmember Pat Cole, to add benches and seating in the downtown area; support an education campaign to encourage use of seating; encourage self-enforcement; and evaluate the program in six to twelve months. Also they were to comprehensively look at the other obstructions on the sidewalks. This motion passed with three in favor (Mark Foutch being the third) and two opposed, Margaret McPhee and Jeannette Hawkins. Bob Jacobs and Holly Gadbaw were absent and did not vote. Last year, Jacobs fully supported the Sidewalk Ordinance.

***Depending on the outcome of the review of the benches and education, a No Sitting Ordinance may come up again.***

The plan calls for placing 28 new benches this summer in the downtown area as well as widening the sidewalk in areas. Along with that will be part one of the education project (part two will be next spring). Either this fall or next fall the council will look at whether or not these additions have mitigated the congestion problem. Depending on the outcome of that review, a No Sitting Ordinance may come up again.

Certain businesses asked for the ordi-

*(Continued page 11)*

# WORKS IN PROGRESS

*Works In Progress* is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

**Submissions:**

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred). Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number. Copy w/o permission.

*If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)*

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, worksinprogress@juno.com, or come by our office and drop it in the "WIP Box" located at the Liberation Cafe.

**Back Issues:**

A complete set of back issues is located in the library of Liberation Cafe along with a chrono-index.

WIP is also being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

**WORKERS IN PROGRESS**

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**Mission Statement:**

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

**Anti-Discrimination Clause:**

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

**Governing Tool:**

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

## WIP Schedule

**Submission Deadline:**

**Friday, July 18**

6pm at Liberation Cafe

**Proofreading Meeting**

Tuesday, July 22
7 pm at Liberation Cafe

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# LETTERS, ETC.

## Reader believes an apology and retraction is in order

Letters, Etc.,

In the June 1997, volume 8, no.2 issue, on page 7, on the same page as an article with the teaser "Truth or Convenience", is a black box with the white words "[June 17, 1989] Olympia police beat to death Danny Spencer for having outstanding Traffic tickets. Thank you Cliff Maynard and Aldo Fantoni."

Is this a paid ad? An editorial comment? A "filler." Who wrote this? Who made the choice to print this? There is no attribution. There is no indication of anyone taking responsibility for this item. Perhaps this is not an oversight. Maybe the purpose of this little black box is geared -- aptly enough -- for convenience NOT truth. It adds to the anti-Olympia PD atmosphere of an article on the same page.

The reputation and regard of "Works In Progress" can only suffer from printing such dishonest filler boxes.

I spent several days away from work videotaping the Coroner's Inquest into Danny Spencer's death for TCTV. No, I was not satisfied with either the process or the outcome. However, enough of the facts came out to show any reasonable person that two simplistic sentences can not truthfully or responsibly convey the reason or cause of Danny's death. It is an injustice to him, his family, other researchers into the case, and to the person named to perpetuate falsehood and hate. I believe an apology and retraction is in order.

Robert Press

## Tears of Love

Looking out the window at the sky,
I see your bright and beautiful eyes,
I believe you are doing the same thing,
Is it true that you are watching for me?

I am a long way away from you,
and I know that it makes you feel blue.
But soon one of these days,
your skies will no longer be gray.

I was taken away from you in this way,
when I return it will be for me to stay.
I've said things that I didn't mean,
I'm sorry baby, my lovin' is yours to keep.

I love you with all my heart,
there is no reason for us to part.
Looking up at the sky,
I notice a tear drop in my eye.
The tears are flowing out of my eyes,
to the ground like rain drops from the sky.
They symbolize only one thing true,
and that is the love that I hold for you.

Aaron Ramsey

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## Citizen Rights

# Your Rights As a Tenant

**All tenants have a basic right to a livable dwelling. The Washington Residential Landlord-Tenant Act requires that every landlord:**

- **Maintain the premises to comply with health and safety codes.**
- **Make repairs and keep the premises in good condition.**
- **Keep any common areas reasonably clean, sanitary, and safe from defects.**
- **Keep the premises reasonably clear of insects, rodents and other pests.**
- **Provide adequate locks and keys.**
- **Maintain all electrical, plumbing, heating and other facilities and appliances in good working order.**
- **Maintain the premises in reasonably weather-tight condition.**
- **Provide garbage cans.**
- **Provide adequate heat, water and electricity.**
- **Provide the tenant with the name and address of the landlord in writing.**
- **The right to a livable dwelling includes the right to have continuous utility service. Utilities may only be turned off by the landlord for a reasonable time to make repairs. If the utilities are shut off for other reasons or are kept off for an unreasonable time, you may sue in small-claims court. Your landlord must make repairs involving water, heat, electricity or conditions hazardous to life within 24 hours or receiving written notice of the problem. Most other problems must be corrected within 10 days of written notice of the repair problem.**
- **The landlord cannot refuse an apartment or otherwise discriminate against you on account of your race, sex, religion, or creed.**
- **The landlord must give you notice before entering your apartment, except in an emergency.**
- **The landlord may not retaliate against you for exercising basic rights, such as complaining to a government agency. Your landlord may not use self-help eviction (throwing or locking you out.) In order to evict you, the landlord must first give you written notice explaining why he or she wants you out. If you don't move out, the landlord must then file a court action to order you out. This is called an "unlawful detainer" action.**

**If you sign a written lease or rental agreement, be sure it states clearly everything you have agreed to. Read and understand this document before you sign it. Insist that the landlord provide you with a copy of the lease. You and the landlord can always agree to cross out or add words. If you do, make sure both of you initial the changes.**

**For complaints and/or inquiries about housing codes, call the local city or county zoning or building departments.**

# City As School
## A Proposal for Experience Based Education

**Joshua Berger**

Like any other point in history, where society is changing faster than the methods of learning and comprehension, avenues of change will play an important role. Most educators will agree that we are at a point where the learning needs of the next generation are altering dramatically. So, adapting new methods of learning, and teaching are becoming more and more necessary. We are coming to realize the importance of community, creative thought, and independent as well as communal decision making. You, as members of the Olympia community, are realizing the need for a more effective solution for students who are in need of an alternative from the traditional school setting, I have found an option that will suit the needs of these students.

"City-As-School" (CAS) is a successful form of high school education in 90 communities throughout the country. It offers a cost effective, community-based learning experience for students with all ability levels. Students have the opportunity to learn about the importance of community from a perspective that one doesn't find when becoming frustrated and dropping out of high school. It is important to me, and many others, that students have the opportunity to educate themselves in an atmosphere that is conducive to their own needs for learning. This is a way to provide it for students here in the Olympia School District.

CAS is a program that uses an experiential style of teaching for high school students who have, "found the traditional school setting uninteresting, threatening or unrelated to their present and future plans", says Bill Weinstein, the program head of the New York City school. The program is experience-based and places students into full time internships, including weekly seminars, throughout the community while earning a high school diploma. Bill travels around the country giving seminars and training sessions to educator's who are interested in adopting/adapting the CAS model.

The need for a learning model like CAS in Olympia is quite apparent. Currently, besides the New Market Vocational Skills Center (NMVSC), there is no other alternative option for students in this community. Not to dismiss the inherent need for occupational skills, having this as the only option neglects the needs of students who are looking, or need, to be stimulated intellectually and academically.

Furthermore, accelerated students are apprehensive about occupational skills institutions based on the historic reputation of attracting less motivated students. The City-As-School model gives motivation incentive for the unmotivated, while providing the necessary conditions for motivated students to excel.

Strictly occupational learning based institutions fail to provide students with creative and independent decision making skills. It is important not only to allow our children to be able to survive in our society but also to allow them to view it as an entity that is multi-faceted and able to be changed and developed through their own eyes. Experience-based education is a remarkable tool to use in order to achieve self expression and creativity.

Learning hands-on in the real world contexts has a manifestly positive effect on CAS students, as judged by the following student testimonials:

> I like that we can test a field...The opportunities and possibilities are boundless...You learn so much more from communicating with someone in that field than you can in a closed classroom for an hour.
>
> I've worked in hospitals, acting studios, been an assistant teacher, and served with a Community Planning Board...It gave me a chance to be on the other side...It's not as easy as you'd think it would be...It's much harder. I've learned a lot of things, I have to admit.
>
> I came here feeling like I was nothing...When I came here my self esteem went up and I feel good about myself.
>
> At first I was nervous, [but] they taught me the stuff I really wanted to know and more. It was the kind of feeling, you know, I had some sort of power.

For possible comparison, I have visited the Federal Way School District to meet with Jim Rankin who is a teacher at Truman High School. Truman, being the alternative for at-risk students, has adapted the CAS model into their curriculum. They have a six week on, two week off, schedule where Jim Rankin (besides teaching two classes a day, and running the student store) has taken on the volunteer/co-op program. He has given or taken 20 or 30 students a term that are volunteering as student teachers, radio programmers, or clerks at local businesses. He also has a number of students that co-op at a local day care center. The students that come into Truman are extremely high risk, coming from abusive and drug addicted families and relationships thus making it difficult to keep track of so many students. Jim is stretched so thin, besides the minimal support from administration, that it is difficult to run any program successfully. Taking all the difficulties into account, Jim is extremely optimistic and is having wonderful success on raising self-esteem, self-worth, and increased motivation from the kids who were least expected to survive in school.

When asked what his biggest set back is, he answered quickly that the scheduling they have leaves little time to reflect on and evaluate their experiences. With only six weeks in an internship, plus the time it takes to get settled into a new situation, there is little time for Jim to sit down with each student to discuss their experiences, thus breaking it down to an academic level. He uses the time it takes to bus them to their internships to discuss. Another set back he has found is the student teacher ratio. Like I stated, he has 20 or 30 students per term that he keeps track of, plus his other responsibilities. Being that the majority of his students are unmotivated and will find any way to get out of their own responsibilities, Jim spends a lot of his time "fathering" his students.

Nevertheless, Jim has found tremendous success in a lot of his students. After teaching and administrating in the public school system for 30 years, he continually tells me that he has found community based learning to be highly effective in reaching all levels of students. But most of all, he has found that the students who are "specialized" truly appreciate the opportunity to not be locked inside a classroom all day and thrive off the responsibilities that they are given through volunteer and co-op learning structures. When I asked one student on the bus heading towards an elementary school, how often he goes into his assistant teacher position he answered, "I would go in every day, all day if I could. I love these kids, and they look up to me. I've never had that before."

City-As-School is an all encompassing educational tool that can easily be adapted into the Olympia School District. Washington State has options for students through the co-op program that can be utilized with CAS. There is also federal grant money for School-to-Work transitional programs. We can involve the entire community including The Evergreen campus and its students (Why not add a mentoring program?). The possibilities are endless, and so is the rich learning that can take place. It is our job as concerned citizens and educators to offer an educational experience to our students that will enrich the rest of their lives, regardless of their background and future goals. There is room for everyone so it is time to tear down the walls and make the space!

If you are interested in learning more about the CAS model, or are interested in discussing its implementation into the Olympia School District, feel free to call. I am in the process of working with the Administration and School Board and would love to have some support in lieu of the difficulties of proposing alternative education. My phone number is (360) 352-4425.

***CAS is a program that uses an experiential style of teaching for high school students who have, "found the traditional school setting uninteresting, threatening or unrelated to their present and future plans" Weinstein***

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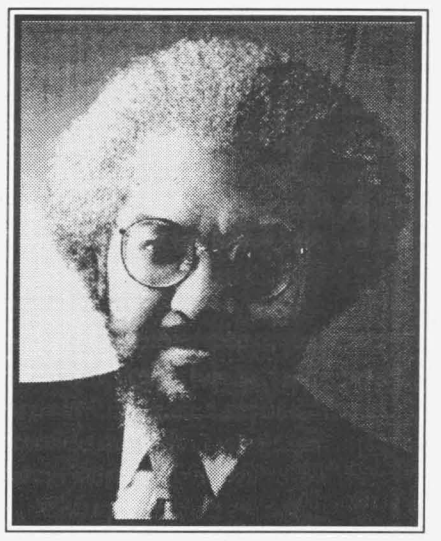
*Along the Color Line*

# Slowly Fade To Black:
# The Miniority Presence in the Media



## Dr. Manning Marable

During the segregation era two generations ago, African Americans and other racialized minorities were effectively blocked from mainstream media -- television, radio and newspapers. We responded to this media blockade by establishing our own publications, designed for black audiences. Gradually, as American society became more integrated, minorities began to have greater representation within the media. By 1978, minority owners held forty broadcasting licenses.

That same year, in an effort to increase minority perspectives and ownership within the national media, the Federal Communications Commission gave tax credits to radio and television station owners who sold their properties to African Americans and other racialized minorities. The tax credits permitted the former owners to defer capital gains taxes if investment profits were reinvested back into the broadcast industry. The net result was an unprecedented expansion of minority-owned media in the US. According to the Commerce Department, of the 479 tax credit certificates, three fourths involved minority owners in deals that average $4 million for a radio station and $38 million for a television station.

By the early 1990s, Black Entertainment Television (BET) reached over 40 million households on cable. Two of the largest minority-owned radio groups, US Radio Inc. of Philadelphia and Lombard/Nogales Partners of San Francisco together owned 35 radio stations nationwide. However, when the Republicans seized control of Congress in 1994, among the first targets were minority broadcasters. In its zeal to wipe out all affirmative action policies, such as minority economic set-asides, Congress revoked the broadcasters' tax credit.

Even defenders of the 1978 tax credit agreed that revisions in the law were necessary to address abuses. Instead "they threw the baby out with the wash water" declares Pluria Marshal, founder of the Black Media Coalition. In only twelve months, media ownership by African Americans and Latinos dropped 10 percent. US Radio, Inc., and Lombard/Nogales Partners were both sold.

As of 1995, there were approximately 300 broadcast properties owned by racialized minorities. Out of over 1,200 television stations in the US, minorities owned 37. Of 4,906 AM radio station, about 175 or 3.6 percent were controlled by minorities. Out of 5,285 FM radio stations, black and Latinos owned only 118, representing 2.2 percent.

The trend away from minority-ownership is troubling for several reasons. Most American -- black, Latino, Asian, and Euro-Americans -- obtain their information from the electronic media. Minority-media owners are far more likely to hire minority reporters and employees, and to feature programming reflecting minority perspectives. If you eliminate minority-controlled media, Afrian Americans and Latinos in particular may be held hostage to white sources of electronic information. In the growing global marketplace of ideas, "whiteness" once again asserts itself to drown out our voices and interests.

A similar situation exists in television news. According to a survey of 50 television stations completed by the Rocky Mountain Media Watch , blacks and Latinos are still largely underrrepresented in television news rooms. On the 50 stations selected, African Americans represented 9 percent of the anchors and Hispanics only 1 percent. Of all "official sources" which were cited in television programs on these stations, 9 percent were black and only 3 percent were Latino.

Conversely, blacks and Latinos are grossly overrepresented when it comes to reporting on crime and violence. The study found that whites were presented as perpetrators of crime only 27 percent of the time. Thirty-two percent of all criminal suspects were Latinos and 37 percent were black. In terms of the victims of crime, 80 percent were white, 12 percent were black, and 4 percent Hispanic. These statistics illustrate the manner through which television manipulates racial symbols to influence its audiences. The media would much rather present racial stereotypes about violence and crime for the purpose of greater ratings. However, their actions serve to undermine multicultural and interracial dialogue based on hard truths.

***An oppressed people cannot rely upon sources of information which reflect the interests and prerogerative of their institutional oppressors.***

On the newsroom floor, white and black journalists and managers have diametrically opposing perspectives on the centrality of racism in their profession. A report by the National Association of Black Journalists noted than "an overwhelming number of black journalists (67) percent and their newsroom managers were not committed to retaining and promoting black journalists." When the same question was asked of white managers, only 5 percent concurred with this opinion. Ninety-four percent of the managers insisted that their organizations showed a "serious commitment" to the hiring of racial minorities. The obvious question, of course, is that if that is true, where are the numbers?

An oppressed people cannot rely upon sources of information which reflect the interests and prerogerative of their institutional oppressors. Communications is the means through which we understand and interpret the world. In the context of globalized capitalism, information is a highly prized commodity, which is packaged and marketed like any other product. Knowledge is power, and it is imperative for black Americans and other oppressed people to seize the initiative, wherever possible, to support alternative sources of information.

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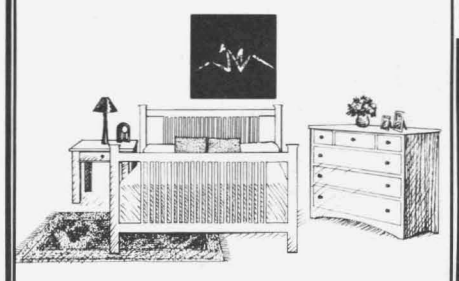
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Up Front

# Decision Time in Army Sex "Scandals"

## Jerome Johnson

Now, about these military personnel cases. I don't like the mainstream media's generic term, "sex scandals". No doubt many of these events are scandals and that sex is involved -- but "sex scandals" trivializes the issues.

Sexual assault isn't new. It is not uncommon, and not uncommon for it to be hushed up. It's widespread through all the services, with offenders often protected by a code of silence. Sexual harassment and homophobia are routine, fertilized by the American warrior culture. As one Navy veteran who served during the Vietnam War said, "It's there all the time. My squadron leader wouldn't leave me alone. But he didn't do anything when I turned him down. Other ones gave you extra details. And senior officers -- it's hard to tell on someone who'll just deny the charge or get 'counseling.' We just put up with it, and got through. My son just joined the Air Force, and he says it still goes on."

Anyone who commits a rape or sexual assault should be prosecuted. If the military is prosecuting black NCOs for assaulting white women, it should also prosecute white officers assaulting women of color -- military and civilian. A racist focus on enlisted men of color won't make assaults go away, and exacerbates race matters.

The media belatedly realized this. That's why the Flinn, Ralston and other recent cases involving white officers have received such a deliberate high focus. ("We are the unbigoted, unbiased Media"). But one cannot escape the difference. So far, the rape/assault defendants are mostly black NCOs. The white officers had mostly consensual relationships against military etiquette. The racist inference: maybe the whites got a little on the side, so what? But black men are insatiable -- they'll rape if they have to.

More complex is the issue of consensual relations and romances. The military needs to fully review and decriminalize such relations, and its personnel need to be mature enough to handle themselves responsibly. I don't expect a breakdown in good order and discipline, nor a utopia. New guidelines may be stricter than civilian rules, but there needs to be more flexibility. As we know, criminalizing something won't stop it.

Perhaps a change in troop training is a first step. Instead of full integration from day one, men and women should train separately in basic and the first part of AIT. Then full integration. This would reduce gender tension during a person's orientation to military life.

More jobs should be opened to women -- including aviation and combat MOS. If a person -- man or woman -- can fire the weapon, hump the ruck or fly the stick, and wants to go, then they should go. Standards shouldn't be changed. Every time some sexist says that women aren't strong enough: I think of all the women I've known who are.

***A racist focus on enlisted men of color won't make assaults go away, and exacerbates race matters.***

And that brings us to the heart of the matter:

US women in combat. Our mothers, daughters, sisters, and wives fighting, bleeding, dying. Women as POWs in the Third World -- Iraq, Congo, Korea.

We don't like that, and that -- plus sexism -- is why US servicewomen aren't eligible for combat positions. The Air Force is almost an exception, with 97% of its positions available through the glass ceilings. Indeed, it makes us rethink our whole attitude toward wars. Traditionally Americans haven't minded warring on someone as long as the Cause was just, the money right, and Good Guys (US & Co) won. But war is terrible, and that's why we don't want women to fight. In fact, wars are so terrible that no one should fight them -- not even men. This is a reasonable conclusion, but it makes many Americans uncomfortable. I mean, imagine paying $7 a gallon for gas, like they do overseas! If it meant fewer people dying in wars, especially wars that profit people already rich, I'd gladly pay $7 a gallon.

On the West Bank and all over Palestine, the intifadeh has unofficially resumed.

In Congo, the US Agency for International Development moves in as Laurent Kabila consolidates power.

In San Diego, Clinton started a "national conversation" about race, and we'll see if he'll walk his talk.

And in Thurston County, a community celebrates our friends and loved ones and co-workers, during Gay Pride Week.


**June 29 through July 2**
*Schizopolis:* 6:30 Sun & Tues; 9 Mon & Wed
*Mina Tannenbaum:* 9pm Sun & Tues; 6:30pm Mon/Wed

**An Animated Festival**
**July 3**
*8pm: Mondo Plympton* presented by Bill Plympton
**July 5**
4pm: *Amazing Russian Animation by Igor Kovalyov*
6:30pm: *Jason and the Argonauts by Ray Harryhausen*
9pm: *Fantastic Planet by Rene Laloux*
Midnight: *Time Masters by Rene Laloux*

**July 6 through July 9**
*Love & Other Catastrophes:* 6:30 Sun/Tues; 9 Mon/Wed
*A Chef in Love:* 9pm Sun/Tues; 6:30pm Mon/Wed

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Sun - 10am to 2pm

# Books to Prisoners-Olympia

*Ed. note: Left Bank Books in Seattle has been running Books to Prisoners since 1979. Due to the overwhelming numbers of prisoner requests, Books to Prisoners - Olympia support group was formed in 1996 to help Left Bank Books keep up with the demand.*

*An all-volunteer effort, Books to Prisoners-Olympia provides reading material—free of charge—to inmates across the country. The number of prisoners is always increasing, yet they rarely have access to educational materials.*

*The following is a sample of the letters received. Many were painstakingly handwritten in beautiful penmanship, and several included artwork, two of which are displayed.*

*Currently they are six months behind in answering letters due to restraints of energy, money and books. Please consider contributing to Books to Prisoners-Olympia's support group work whether by book donations, volunteering your time or contributing money. You can do this anytime Bulldog News is open. (116 E. 4th Ave, Downtown, Olympia) Open work sessions are every Thursday from 3-9pm. It's an appreciated effort, read on.*

## Learned a lesson

Left Bank Books:

Thank you so much for the past books you have sent. They have truly been appreciated. I share what I get and that really makes me feel good as well. I wouldn't be able to share books - but I have learned a lesson from you, kindness. If I am ever released, I plan on helping others that are imprisoned to receive books or things to help educate.

Any future books will be as appreciated. These last books were excellant. Please keep me in mind if any numerology books come in. Tarot, Astrology—any thing that is like that. Reflexology. Anyway, goodbye.

Thanks and God bless you all,
Ray Allen Upton, Texas

## Hoping for poetry

Left Bank Books Personel:

I am hoping and praying to obtain some poetry books about love, friendship, religion, dreams, etc... Something simple, not too complex. We have a library on the unit and the few books they have are too advanced for the average person. I have a desire to write poetry and a love for reading it as long as I can identify and understand it. Robert Frost and Edgar Allen Poe are a little too deep for me. Please help me out if at all possible. Thank you and God bless.

Sincerely,
Matt Baker, Texas

*Ed. note: This letter is an example of why prison libraries don't always service a prisoner's needs.*

## Program is a boon

Books to Prisoners:

I have just received the two fabulous textbooks you so kindly sent me. My aspirations can only take flight with helpful literature such as you provided. Thank you so very much.

A program that provides books to those of us in need is a boon that transcends distance I hope and pray always are able to keep up this valiant effort in this day of declining knowledge.

Thank you for your time, effort, as well as the expense you incurred.

Sincerely,
Jay T. Matthews, Arizona

## Help me out

Dear Friend in Seattle, Greetings:

Here is Adel Shurbaji, a convict doing time in Texas Dpt. of Corrections. I am currently under C.O.P. status, confined to my cell for 23 hrs a day, 7 days a week for the next 28 months. I beseech thee to reach out fo this lonely ranger. I am starting to lose it, kind of. Nobody to talk to or listen to. Then a friend by mail passed your address. Do you really send books for prisoners? I like Dean Koonts fiction, but only Dean Koonts. If not, then any other non-fiction will do as well as scientific, religious, intellectual, you name it, whatever it is. So I would sincerely be appreciative if you could help me out, it would be the sweetest Thanksgiving treat!

Sincerely,
Shurbaji Adel, Texas

*Ed. note: Due to the huge prison population in Texas and limited resources, Books to Prisoners is currently focusing on providing non-fiction and some classic fiction books to Texas prisoners*

## Dictionary and history

Dear Sponsor:

"Greetings"...my name is La Masio and I would like to take this opportunity to let you know that I always ask "The Powers That Be" to bless you for the very good work that you are doing.

**I'm very, very sincere when I tell you that you and your program has done far more in the way of educational reform than the ten (10) years I've been in prison!** [emphasis by author]

I would also like to take this opportunity to make a book request...Upon which I would very much like to request a Spanish and English [dictionary] and a few good Hispanic history books or other Spanish history or culturally diverse literature.

As always, I thank you for your attention given this matter.

Sincerely yours,
La Masio, Texas.



by Robert Hambrick

### Essays from Inside Prison Walls

# Current Prison System Guarantees Recidivism

**Harvey Williams, Jr.**

There is another important cause of demoralization in prisons. All transgressions of accepted moral standards may be ascribed to a lack of strong will. The majority of the inmates of prisons are people who did not have sufficient strength to resist the temptations surrounding the them or to control a passion which momentarily carried them away.

***... where will he find the strength to resist the temptations which will arise before him, as if by magic, when he is free of the prison walls?***

In prisons as in monasteries, everything is done to kill a man's will. He generally has no choice between one of two acts. The rare occasions on which he can exercise his will are very brief. Hi whole life is regulated and ordered in advance. He has only to swim with the current, to obey under pain of severe punishment.

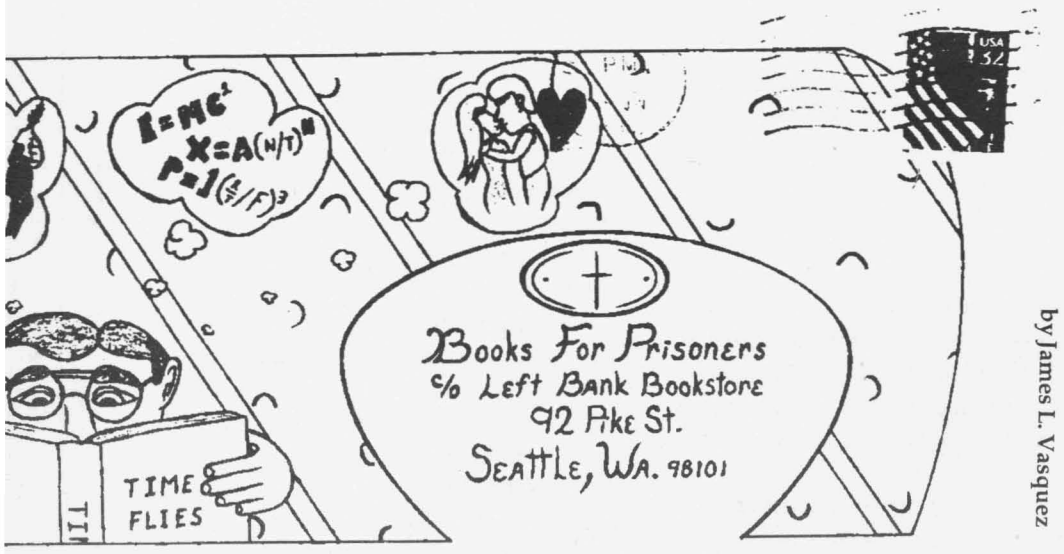
Under these conditions all the will condemnation of individual liberty.

The origin of this suppression of individual will, which is the essence of all prisons, is easy to see. It springs from the desire of guarding the greatest number of prisoners with the fewest possible guards. The ideal of prison officials would be thousands of automatons, arising, working, eating and going to sleep by means of electric currents switched on by one of the guards. Economies might then be made in the budget, but no astonishment should be expressed that men, reduced to machines, are not, on their release, the type which society wants.

As soon as a prisoner is released, his old companions await him. He is fraternally received and once again engulfed by the current which once swept him to prison. Protective organizations can do nothing. All that they can do to combat the evil influence of the prison is to counter-balance some of those results in the liberated men.

And what a contrast between the reception by his old companions and that of the people in philanthropic work for released prisoners! Who of them will invite him to his home and say to him simply, "Here is a room, here is work, sit down at this table and become part of the family?" The released man is only looking for the out-stretched hand of warm friendship. But society, after having done everything it could to make an enemy of him, having inoculated him with the vices of prison, rejects him. He is condemned to become a "repeater."

power that he may have had on entering disappears. And where will he find the strength with which to resist the temptations which will arise before him, as if by magic, when he is free of the prison walls? Where will he find the strength to resist the first impulse to a passionate outbreak, if during several years everything was done to kill this inner strength, to make him a docile tool in the hands of those who control him? This fact is, according to my mind, the most terrible




by James L. Vasquez

## Revolutionary books

Greetings:

I greet you from within this nebular of human oppression... I address this communication to you from my cell in isolation where a brother who locks next door to me gave me your address with the hopes of receiving some books to read. I am looking for something on a revolutionary vibe, we are a dying breed, perhaps something by comrade George Jackson. I have been held hostage by this prison system for the past 30 years and I have spent the last 10 in isolation. Any support that you can render me regarding my request will be deeply appreciated.

At the moment I do not have any money, but the jail gives me 8 dollars a month in idle pay, so I could send you so much a month if we could work something out on that level. Also, do you have a book list??? So that I could recommend something to my family, I have been trying to politically educate them...

Struggle or Stagnate,
Lateef Amen Ra, Pennsylvania

## It means a lot to me

Dear Book Folks:

I just wanted to write to thank you for the books and other reading material that you sent to me. I should have written sooner, but sometimes stamp money is hard to come by. I hope you understand.

I never read, except when made to in school. It is a shame that a man has to come to prison to get his life straightened out. A bigger shame that I had to realize a love for books so late in life.

But thank God for good folk like you, who care enough to give of yourself for societies sludge. It means a very lot to me. Again, thank you.

God Bless,
Robert L. Hambrick, Texas

## Requesting Malcolm X

Bismillahir-Rahmanir-Rahim: In the name of Alllah (God), Most Gracisou, Most Merciful.

As-Salaamu Alaikum (Peace be upon you)

My dearest brother or sister, of the family of mankind, may Allah (God), who knows every secret of our hearts and our lives, who knows all our pains and difficulties. It is He alone who is the true quide to all of humanity, and may He guide us all along the straight path.

I'm writing to you in concerning free book for prisoners. My brother or sister, I understand that upon receiving any books one has to be willing to pick only (3) books, because your company issue out books all over the world. (Al-Hamdulillah) All praise belongs to God. My most concern is books on and about Malcolm X. His Autobiography, changed my life around for the better, opened my eyes to the way a man can change for the better while incarcerated. Malcolm X has become my mentor and I would like to ask you if you all have these books dealing with Malcolm X: Malcolm X on Afro-American History, The Assassination of Malcolm X by George Breitman, and Malcolm X Speaks. If you have any of those books dealing with Malcolm X, your service would be very greatful.

Jak-Allah (Thank you) for your time, and may Allah (God) keep His peace and blessings upon you and your company for serving the prisoners who's trying to educate themselves on life and history. Once again I must say Jak-Allah (Thank you) for your service.

Radiy Islaami-Diyn A. Muhammad

*Ed. note: The letter requesting books by or on Malcolm X above is literally one of hundreds of such requests. Donations of these books are always needed.*

## Your Help Is Needed

**Because of the huge number of letters Books for Prisoners-Olympia receives each month and its limited resources, requests from January are just now being filled. Thousands of letters still remain in boxes. Your help and generousity are urgently needed. If we desire individuals in this country's prisons to be caring, thoughtful and sympathetic, then we too need to be caring, thoughtful and sympathetic. We need to "walk the talk." Please donate your time, money or books.**

***In greatest demand are:***
**English, Spanish/English dictionaries, thesaurus', new almanacs, and GED books**

***Frequently requested are:***
**African American, Chicano/Latino and Native American History and progressive U.S. history**

***Please donate:***
- **Any other good books**
- **Stamps and stamp money**
- **Money for tape, wrapping paper, copying**

**Please bring donations of books to the Books to Prisoners-Olympia office at the Liberation Cafe above Bulldog News.**

**And please make checks payable to: Liberation Cafe c/o Books to Prisoners**

***Address:*** **Books to Prisoners c/o Liberation Cafe, 116 4th Ave, Olympia WA 98501**

***Telephone:*** **(360) 352-7336**

# Special Needs Book Request in Electronics

*Ed. note: On occasion people will write asking for books on unusual topics. Books to Prisoners-Olympia attempts to locate these request, but are not always successful. The following letter from John Northcutt in Texas is such a situation. If anyone knows where to acquire these books or has some to donate, please call 352-7336.*

I am writing in a request of some books that may help me with my education as I am currently incarcerated in the Texas Dept. Criminal Justice Institutional Division, and I have heard about your program (to be true or not?) of donating books to incarcerated individuals. If this is true I would like to request these six books in Electronic (Audio specifically, that's where my interest is in, trouble-shooting and repair, or building.)

1) Electronic Circuits Volume 1-6 by Rudolf F. Gray

2) Audio Amplifier construction by R.A. Penfold

3) or compatible.

Thank you very much for your time and help!

## Dr. Betty Shabazz
## 1936 - 1997

### Activist, Educator, Mother, and Wife

"With every deed you are sowing, though the harvest you may not see."

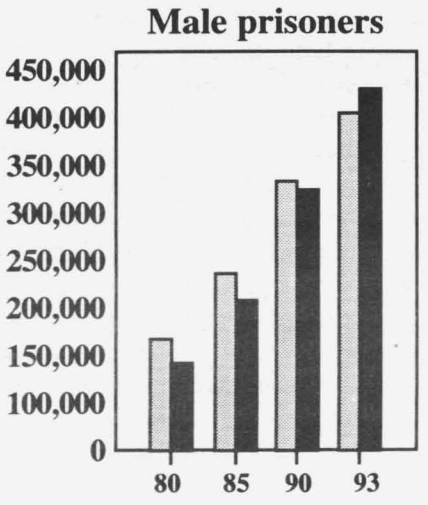
Ella Wheeler Wilcox

## *For Your Information - Racial Disproportionality in United States Prisons*

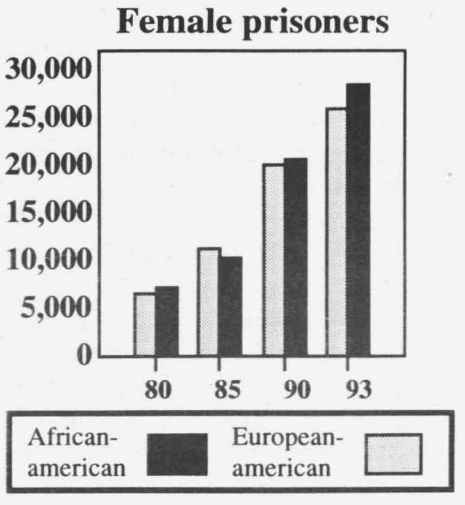
**Population by Race**

| | |
|---|---|
| 1% | Native |
| 4% | Asian-american |
| 11% | Hispanic-american |
| 13% | African-american |
| 73% | European-american |

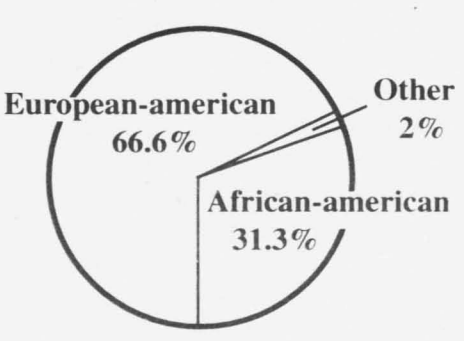
**Male prisoners**




**Female prisoners**




**Arrests by race, 1994**



## In Solidarity!

# July 19th Work–A–Thon For El Salvador And The Liberation Cafe

**Larry Mosqueda**

Saturday, July 19, 1997 there will be a Work–A–Thon at the Liberation Cafe to raise money for the Liberation Cafe and the FMLN in El Salvador. Based on the Work–A–Day programs of the late 1980s when solidarity activist donated or got others to donate a day's wages for the popular forces, including the FMLN in El Salvador, the Work–A–Thon will integrate local grass roots organizing and international solidarity.

As the readers of *Works In Progress* are probably aware, during the 1980s, the United States, under the Reagan administration, conducted a criminal war against the people of El Salvador (and much of the rest of Central America). Over 75,000 people were killed in El Salvador, primarily by government forces and government sponsored death squads. The main guerrilla group which defended the people was the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN).

In 1992, there was a peace treaty which ended the war and dismantled much (but not all) of the repressive forces of the Salvadoran government. A significant part of the peace treaty was the establishment of the FMLN as a legal political party with full rights of participation in the political life of El Salvador. (The FMLN was already, of course, a legitimate force in the country).

In the 1994 national elections the FMLN become the second largest political party in El Salvador with some victories in the legislative assembly and in local municipalities. In March of 1997, the FMLN won tremendous victories in the elections. They are becoming the dominate and ascending force in El Salvador. The FMLN now has 27 seats in National Assembly (out of 84)—second only to the right–wing Arena party with 28. (There are currently nine political parties). Since it appears that Arena was involved in fraudulent efforts that "earned" them 2 or 3 seats, it is clear that the fortunes of the FMLN are very bright. This is especially evident since the Arena party lost almost half of its power and the FMLN almost doubled its strength.

Perhaps even more importantly, the FMLN won 57 municipalities in El Salvador–including the capitol and largest city of San Salvador. More people now live under (or with FMLN) governments at the local level than any other political party in El Salvador!

I had the privilege to travel to El Salvador as part of a Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) delegation during the week of May 1st. May Day, International Workers Day, also happens to be the day when the transition of power from the last election occurred. It was very inspiring to be part of a May Day march of 35,000 strong and the to observe the swearing in ceremonies at the National Assembly and local municipalities.

One particular moving ceremony was at municipality of Santa Tecla, near San Salvador. As the elected FMLN mayor and city council were told to raise their right hands for the swearing in, the crowd of onlookers began to shout "ISQUIERDA–ISQUIERDA" (LEFT–HAND — LEFT–HAND). The mayor and the city council smiled broadly, complied, and were sworn in. I was moved by the fact that after almost two decades of intensive repression and struggle, that the will of the people had not been broken and that they were prepared to take the struggle to a new level and to reap the benefits of their sacrifices (just as many people had done in municipalities where the FMLN had won in 1994).

As a long time CISPES volunteer told me on this trip, the victory of the FMLN in this election was the most significant gain for the left in the 1990s. I agree. After sustaining some significant defeats such as the electoral lost of the Sandinistas in Nicaragua and the Gulf War, it is important that we become aware of and celebrate our victories. It should come as no surprise to readers of this newspaper that the results of the El Salvador elections were not widely reported in the mass media.

It is also important that we here in the United States continue and intensify our solidarity work. To that end CISPES has initiated a nationwide Work–A–Thon with various local organizations. This helps to solidify the connections between struggles at the local, national, and international levels.

This is especially appropriate in the case of El Salvador since many of the issues that the people are struggling around in El Salvador are directly related to local issues in the United States. For example, El Salvador is being subjected to neo–liberal policies of privatization, i.e. the possible selling off or elimination of government services, such as telecommunication, education or medical care. In the United States we are being subjected to the possible privatization or elimination of welfare, state prisons or social security.

The intensification of repression of women and youth in both societies are directly related — the day *before* the FMLN assumed more power in the legislative assembly, the old legislature restricted women's right to abortions and the same socio–economic forces that help to create youth gangs in the United States has helped to create those gangs in El Salvador. In fact, the dominate leadership of Salvadoran gangs are youth who have been deported from the United States.

There are many, many other connections and similarities that activists here can work on and learn from in our local and international work. The old axiom to "Think Globally and Act Locally" is more than a cliche, but a necessity in this age of globalization and international capital. To repeat – on July 19 local activist will engage in a Work–A–Thon to raise funds for both the Liberation Cafe and the people of El Salvador. The local organizing group has been meeting regularly and the current plans are to build and paint a moveable mural which illustrates the struggles of people locally, nationally, and internationally. A group of volunteers is assembled that will participate in the planning of the project, the design of the mural, the painting of the mural, and the solicitation and collection of pledges.

***To become involved as either a worker, participant, or contributor for the Work–A–Thon or for more information contact Larry Mosqueda at 866-6000 ext. 6513 or Tom Nogler at 705–2241.***

If the readers of this article have not yet been personally asked to participate yet, please consider this an invitation to do so. (Our initial small sub–committee has not yet had the opportunity to contact everyone who might be interested and we, of course, do not want to exclude anyone).

There are several ways to get involved:

1) You can come to the planning meetings on Wednesdays at the Liberation Cafe at 6:00pm; and/or

2) You can contact the numbers below and volunteer to be a participant on July 19, at the Liberation Cafe to help do the work and solicit your friends, co–workers and acquaintances for this fundraiser; and/or

3) You can be a sponsor or contributor to the fund raiser.

There are several level of possible contributions, of course. For those who can afford it, a day's wages would be helpful to make up for the many days we are forced to pay for wars with imperial aims.

(Several studies have shown that most of our federal income taxes are used for past, present, or future wars — this is often obfuscated by budget procedures which puts such things as military pensions, interest payments on past wars, nuclear weapons, etc. in non–"defense", non-military categories; and including social security in the general budget)

Other options include sponsoring a thon worker with a fixed amount e.g. $100, $50, $25, $10 or sponsoring a thon worker for a fixed amount per hour for up to eight hours. Donations can be given on the day the pledge is made, the day of the Work–A–Thon, or in the week following. Our goal is to send the national CISPES office its share to send to El Salvador by August 1.

In the 1980s, when the hot war was being conducted against the people of Central America by the US government, there was a massive movement against the war. Now that the hot war is over, Central America is no longer in the mass media and is out of many US people's consciousness. The noted author Michael Parenti has noted that because many people are skeptical about the media, that it is not often successful in telling us what to think, but that "it is remarkably successful in telling us what to think about".

Now that the popular forces are on the ascendancy in El Salvador, it is again time to seriously think about Central America and to act both locally and globally. There are many issues "on the ground" in both El Salvador and Olympia which are connected and which will have significant impacts here and there. In El Salvador, the coming Presidential elections of 1999 and Legislative elections of 2000 promise to be pivotal. For those interested in local and global issues this is an opportunity to be part of an historical process.

A very logical question for those who are interested in becoming involved is, "Where is the money from the July 19 Work–A–Thon going?" The Olympia Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES) and the Olympia Political Cultural Center–Liberation Cafe (OPCC) are going to split the proceeds for the day between local political organizing and grass root organizing in El Salvador. Readers of this newspaper probably have a good grasp of the workings of the Liberation Cafe but the following paragraph is from part of a recent

*(Continued next page)*

## (Work-A-Thon, continued)

membership letter.

A.) One half of the money will go to the operating expenses and work of the Liberation Cafe. As part of the mission statement states, the goal of the Cafe is to promote "an alternative social and economic system based on meeting human needs, rather than profit and wealth of a few. We seek to provide information, analysis, entertainment, art, and discussion that is not available from the corporate owed media and institutions". The OPCC offers meeting/office space for a number of local groups, including Olympia AIDS Prevention Program – Youth Project, Books To Prisoners, Feminist In Self–Defense Training, City Limits Independent Musicians' Union, Works In Progress, the Women's Art and Sustainable Works Cooperative, a poetry group and free Spanish and English classes. The OPCC also holds Friday night events every week with a variety of formats including speakers, films, panel discussions, music, plays, art shows, etc.

B.) One half of the money will be split between grass root organizations which CISPES has had long term relations and which are lead by Salvadorans themselves.

1) The Melida Anaya Montes Women's Movement (MAM) has directly supported the struggles of sweatshop workers since 1994; they drafted new laws to protect garment workers in the spring of 1996. Applying their feminist perspective to organizing, the MAM is providing an alternative model for organizing women workers: promoting their rights as women and their rights as workers.

The MAM is currently leading the fight for justice in the maquilas (sweatshops) through:

* Direct woman–to–woman organizing
* Education and training in labor and women's rights
* Legal support for workers' grievances
* The first maquila workers' hotline in Central America!

2) The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front is the fastest growing political force in El Salvador. More than a political party, the FMLN is a grassroots organization working directly with people on a local level to identify their needs and find solutions. The only party to represent the interests of the majority, they led the opposition to privatization, and passed laws to protect garment workers in the maquilas. The FMLN is El Salvador's greatest hope for change.

Funds raised for the FMLN will pay the monthly salaries of eight grassroots organizers. The organizers work year round, promoting a model of community–led development, and ensuring the FMLÀ's involvement at the base.

After the Work–A–Thon we will have accomplished greater unity in the Olympia community, material international solidarity, and have a permanent piece of art for Liberation Cafe.

To become involved as either a worker, participant, or contributor for the Work–A–Thon or for more information contact Larry Mosqueda at 866-6000 ext. 6513 or Tom Nogler at 705–2241.

If you are interested in future work with CISPES including the upcoming National Convention in San Francisco, CA, August 15–17, or the Grassroots Activist Summer Training Camp in Santa Cruz, CA August 18–22, contact Larry Mosqueda at the phone above.

## July Events at Liberation Cafe

*July 4, Friday - 7pm -* **Maybe some music. TBA!**

*July 11, Friday - 7pm* **- Discussion and Slide Presentation on El Salvador and the FMLN with Larry Mosqueda.**

*July 17, Thursday - 7pm* **- City Limits presents Live Music! with Chris Chandler, Citizen's Band, Fiore Mills, and The Previous.**

*July 18, Friday - 7pm* **- Discussion and Slide Presentation on mismanagement of our National Forest, specifically the 329 acre old growth Jammin' timber cut in Gifford Pinchot Forest with the Cheetwood Wilderness Alliance.**

*July 25, Friday - 7pm* **- Presentation and Discussion on local transportation issues with Olympia Community Bikes.**

*Weekly Events:*

**Mon. 7pm: free Spanish Class; Thurs. 3pm: Books To Prisoners; Wed. 7pm: Liberation Cafe meetings; Thurs. 7pm: Olympia AIDS Prevention Projects meeting; Sun. 4pm: Youth Liberation Front meeting.**

### The Dollar Movies Are Back!!

Independently made video-delights showing in July
Show times are 7pm on Thursday nights in Liberation Cafe

July 3rd - Asian American and Immigration Themes:
*The Fall of the I-Hotel, All Orientals Look the Same, Animal Appetites, Papapapa, Rosy*
July 10th - *Blue Collar Buddha, Displaced in the New South*
July 17th - *Troubled Paradise, Dirty Laundry, El Culebrero, Measures of Distance*
July 24th - *Sa-I-Gu: From Korean Women's Perspective, Why is Preparing Fish a Political Act, Minoru: Memory of Exile, Home is Struggle*
July 31st - Women's Stories of Accomplishment and Survival
*A Spy in the House Ruth Built, Rituals of Courting, The Love Thang Trilogy*
And: By the Sweat of Our Brow -- Labor Struggles at Home and Abroad
*The Canneries, Flower Sellers/Floristas, A Labor of Love*

**THE LIBERATION CAFE NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT!**
**BECOME A MEMBER NOW!**
**Liberation Cafe has performance space available!!**

**For more info or to schedule events, please call 352-7336 or come by the Cafe, located on the Top Floor of Bulldog News in downtown Oly.**

## Call for Action

# Forced Indian Relocation

### WIP NewsService

**In January 1982, Leon Berger, Executive Director of the Navajo-Hopi Indian Relocation Commission resigned saying that, "the forcible relocation of (over) 10,000 Navajo people is a tragedy of genocide and injustice that will be a blot on the conscience of this country for many generations."**

**In May 1982, Roger Lewis, one of three Federally appointed Relocation Commissioners resigned saying, "I feel that in relocating these elderly people, we are as bad as the people who ran the concentration camps in World War II."**

***Over 12,000 traditional Dineh (Navajo) and 100 Hopi have suffered coerced relocation since 1974 when Public Law 93-531, "The Relocation Act," was passed.***

**Families whose only crime is living on top of billions of tons of coal are being given warrants for trespassing in their own homes. Over 12,000 traditional Dineh (Navajo) and 100 Hopi have suffered coerced relocation since 1974 when Public Law 93-531, "The Relocation Act," was passed. No hearing was ever held. Over $350 million taxpayer dollars have been spent.**

**In 1996, Senator John McCain, (AZ) authored Public Law 104-301, "The Navajo-Hopi Land Dispute Settlement," sanctioning forced evictions of 3,000 Dineh people who have resisted relocation despite all efforts by the US government to starve and freeze them from their ancestral homeland. For 23 years a US Court ordered Bennett Freeze has denied them the right to repair their homes even in cases of medical need. A ban on housing construction has forced 20 family members to live in a one room hogan. They are denied all serviced including access to water. US government officials have fenced off, capped off and dismantled water wells. Livestock, upon which they depend for their survival, is illegally confiscated and abused in the US Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) impoundment yard.**

#### The Real Crimes

*** The present day relocation is the largest Indian removal since the 1800s.**

*** Exploitation of the area's abundant uranium resources has engendered epidemic rates of lung cancer among Navajo uranium miners and their families.**

***Peabody's Western Coal Company (PWCC) operates the world's largest strip mine (103 sq. miles) and seeks to expand operations into the Dineh homeland.**

***Peabody is owned by Hanson Holding Company of London, England. They operate the Black Mesa/Kayenta mining complex ignoring all laws regulating mining including conducting pre-blast surveys.**

***A recent figure quotes Peabody paid a price of twelve cents per ton to both Navajo and Hopi Tribal Councils. Peabody sells at $22 per ton in the marketplace. Yearly about 12 million tons are mined.**

***Surface and ground water has been contaminated.**

***An estimated 4,000 Anasazi cliff houses and archeological sites have been destroyed.**

***Highly restrictive permit requirements violated Freedom of Religion. Dineh religion is land-based and site specific.**

***Burial sites and sacred sites are bulldozed and desecrated in violation of the Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act.**

*** To say money shipping coal, a 275 mile, illegal coal slurry pipeline pumps over 1.4 billion gallons of scarce, pristine water from a sole source aquifer each year. It is estimated several Hopi villages will run dry in three years at the present rate of usage levels. Others will follow.**

*** To use the coal from this area the largest power plant in the US was built. The air pollution created by the power plant is the greatest single point source of greenhouse effect gases in North America and is one of only two visible man-made effects seen by Apollo astronauts.**

#### Relocation to the "New Lands"

*** The "New Lands", south of Sanders, AZ, the prime site for relocatees was purchased by the US government in 1980. In 1979, the "New Lands" was contaminated by the nation's largest radioactive spill (Church Rock Spill), second only to Chernobyl. It is unfit for human and livestock habitation.**

*** Forced relocation to this inadequately remediated Superfund site is in direct violation of Executive Order 12898 on Environmental Justice signed by Clinton in 1994.**

*** Thousands of Dineh people have died from relocation effects, environmental and stress related illnesses and homelessness. Thousands more are homeless.**

*** Threats to seal off the reservation to outside parties and witnesses endangers the lives of Dineh people including elders, women and children.**

#### What to do

**The US Congress must conduct investigations of gross and systemic human rights violations against the Dineh people.**

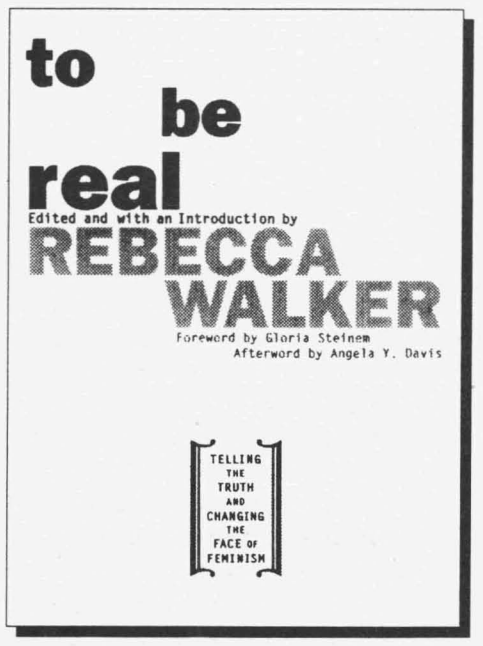
**Contact your senator at US Senate, Washington DC 20510.**

**Contact your representatives at US House of Representatives, Washington DC 20515.**

**Contact Senator John McCain (AZ) at (202) 224-2235 or fax (202) 228-2862**

**For more information write the Sovereign Dineh Nation:**
**Roberta Blackgoat, Chair, SDN**
**PO Box 349 Kykotsmovi, AZ 86039**

# I Don't Worship the Goddess, I'm Not Anti-Pornography and I Wanna Be A Boxer -- Can I Still Be Allowed in The Feminist Spectrum?


to be real
Edited and with an Introduction by
REBECCA WALKER
Foreword by Gloria Steinem
Afterword by Angela Y. Davis
TELLING THE TRUTH AND CHANGING THE FACE OF FEMINISM

**Wendy C. Ortiz**

***To Be Real: Telling the Truth and Changing the Face of Feminism*, edited and with an introduction by Rebecca Walker, Foreword by Gloria Steinem, Afterword by Angela Y. Davis**

After having had the opportunity to go to a talk given by Rebecca Walker at the Evergreen State College, I was anxious to read the book that she had edited and was there to promote, *To Be Real: Telling the Truth and Changing the Face of Feminism*. For me, Walker's talk was more than just a promo. The talk she gave at the Long House was as much a description of her current project, Third Wave, a national organization that promotes women's activism in all sectors, as it was a description of how she personally came to find her place in that feminist spectrum that so many women feel left out of. Yep, that's right, there are those of us that <u>still</u> feel left out of that spectrum, bandwagon, tight little circle, whatever it is. Walker's book takes on the hard task of truth-telling in an effort to dismantle the stereotypes about feminism—and I'm not just talking here of the oft-repeated "man-hater" blah blah blah, or even the whole drumming circle-moon-worshipping stereotype - although the essays in this book certainly do a number on both, and more. Rebecca Walker is an activist and lecturer, perhaps most well known for her open bisexuality (how I first came to hear of her), her contributing editorship at Ms. magazine, and her author/activist mother, Alice Walker. Her desire to, basically, be the whole person she is without apology or compromise and <u>still</u> identify as a feminist is what led her to compile this book of essays from women (and three men) who strove for the same. The essays give voice to the so-called "contradictions" many women feel when they have tried to conform themselves to what they had previously thought, believed, or were led to believe feminism was about. One of my favorite essays, "Kicking Ass" by Veena Cabreros-Sud (which was read by Mz. Walker to a hootin' and hollerin' audience of mostly Evergreen students), is an account of the author's relationship with violence ("I have this thing with violence. I look for fights on the train. I dare Joe Pervert on the street to touch me so I can kick his balls...") and the attitude she gets from "most white feminists" - an attitude of disgust, like this is unacceptable behavior. Cabreros- Sud's essay reveals a personal herstory of the violence inflicted on her parents in war that manifested itself in fear, nightmares, and eventually a type of resistance that is usually not allowed space in white feminist culture. "Sexism and the Art of Hip-Hop Maintenance" by Eisa Davis (also read in excerpts by Walker at Evergreen) focuses on the author's decision of whether to buy the (sexist, violent) Snoop Doggy Dog CD or ("positive messages" yet plain old "product" by) Queen Latifah CD - and still feel like a "good feminist" (hint: figure out who is a "good feminist" and why - and if you can even define "good feminist", perhaps you need this book more than the rest of us). If this decision seems trivial to you, perhaps you are either not interested in widening the feminist spectrum to include such perspectives or you just had no idea such perspectives even existed and you should indeed pick this book up and have a look. Having felt similarly in monetary decisions over books, CDs, films, etc., I can say that I found this essay to be as complex as I had experienced this type of dilemma to be in the past.

***Being who we truly are, even in the face of opposition by those who think they know what feminism is "really" about - and challenging those clear-cut definitions - is an act of resistance in itself.***

And then there are the essays in which women struggle to find representations of themselves in the feminist spectrum (unlike Cabreros-Sud, whom I imagine aggressively steps into the feminist spectrum as some glance sideways at her uncomfortably and others like me gaze starry-eyed at her, fists clenched in solidarity). Amruta Slee, in the essay "Congratulations, It's A Girl," describes "watch(ing) films...looking always for the person I could be, looking for figures of Indian descent who lead messy lives, looking for women who tumble off the track...looking for someone who looks a bit like me, thinks a bit like me." The empowerment sometimes comes when we are looking for similarities, however small. The empowerment sometimes comes when the truths are forced out into the world, the search for dichotomous definitions and existences ends, and the ambiguities of being a woman, a feminist, a human being are just plain accepted. If you go into this book expecting carefully constructed feminist political theories, you will be disappointed. And guess what? It's never been just about carefully constructed political theories - that's just what they have led you to believe. Walker's effort is to spotlight the so- called "divergent" voices in feminism and create a space that allows for the complexities of each individual within the movement. Being who we truly are, even in the face of opposition by those who think they know what feminism is "really" about - and challenging those clear-cut definitions - is an act of resistance in itself. *(The author totally realizes the use of stereotypes in the title of this article. It was included to prove a point, albeit sarcastically. Duh.)*

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## (Burrito, continued)

gotiating team.

Did you know that if an employer takes actions against his or her employees for union activity that they can be fined and the employees reinstated and given back pay if they were fired or suffered a loss in pay. Did you know there are resources to help? Do you want to start a bargaining unit? *The Labor Law Handbook* has this advice:

> You will probably want to be affiliated with a national union organization, so your first step will be to contact an appropriate union. Many unions have locals in this area. These are listed under "Labor Organizations" in the yellow pages of the phone book. (See sidebar.) Choose a union carefully because some unions may not be right for you. Some are better at and more interested in organizing smaller groups than others. Some unions have stronger organizations in some parts of the country than in others.

A good starting point is to contact some of its members and ask them what they think of their union. Some unions have become "catch-all" unions which will organize just about any group of workers, and one of these might be good for your group, especially if it is strong in your area or if you perform unskilled or semi-skilled work. Important "catch-all" unions are the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the Industrial Workers of the World (IWW), and Service Employees International Union (SEIU). [The Thurston-Lewis Central Labor Council is also an important source of information.]

When you contact a union, identify yourself and explain your situation. A good union will send an organizer who will meet with your group and explain the steps which must be taken to form a union. The organizer will answer your questions, explain what is legal, and what is not during an organizing campaign. Ask a lot of questions. You deserve to have the best union representation possible.

Remember there are many local people eager to support and stand by you in your efforts.

Once you have your union formed, a whole range of activities are opened up. There are educational opportunities to learn more about labor history and the labor movement at TESC Labor Center; political action activities to promote the issues of working people in the legislature; service opportunities which promote a sense of community and a feeling of giving back; and social events to strengthen human relationships. In addition, there are tremendous leadership skills that can be gained-as a union officer or committee chair in your local union or as a representative to multi-union bodies such as the Central Labor Council. When you have bargaining issues with your employer, you will find a community and *Works In Progress* ready to help.

*Teresa Jennings is an elected official of the Thurston/Lewis Labor Council, a member of AFSCME 443, and a Worker In Progress.*

## Labor Resources

Brotherhood of Maintenance
212 Eleventh Street East, Bucoda
278-3500

Building and Construction Trades Council
119 1/2 Capitol Way, North, Olympia
357-5460

Carpenters Union Organizing Dept. 119 1/2 Capitol Way, North, Olympia
357-4342

Hotel Employees & Restaurant Employees
805 Pacific in Tacoma
Olympia phone 754-6055

Industrial Workers of the World
PO Box 2775 Olympia, WA 98507
753-5919

Laborers International
119 1/2 Capitol Way, North, Olympia
357-5460

Office & Professional Employees International
3049 South 36th, Tacoma
800-562-8448

Service Employees International Union
3049 South 36th, Tacoma
800-423-4168

Sheet Metal Workers
1220 Tracy Street SE, Lacey
491-3042

Teamsters & Chauffeurs Union
119 1/2 Capitol Way, North, Olympia
943-1950

Thurston-Lewis Labor Council
119 1/2 Capitol Way, North, Olympia
357-8517

United Food & Commercial Workers
9500 Front Street, Tacoma
800-562-3645

Labor Center at TESC 866-6000 x6525

## General Procedures for Union Formation

**The National Labor Relations Act and those state laws patterned after it set forth the following general procedures for union formation:**

**a) You must show, usually by signing "union authorization cards," that there is sufficient interest in unionization for the National Labor Relations Board to call for an election. Generally 30 percent of the people in the bargaining unit as you define it must sign authorization cards to satisfy the NLRB. The union organizer will supply these cards.**

**b) Once the authorization cards have been signed, you can ask your employer to voluntarily recognize the union. If the employer agrees and the NLRB is satisfied that the union represents the will of the majority of workers, then the next step is to begin collective bargaining. Chances are, though, that the employer will not voluntarily recognize the union. In that case you must petition the nearest NLRB regional office for a union certification election.**

**c) Your employer can agree to an election immediately upon notice from the NLRB, but if it does not, the NLRB office will conduct an election hearing. First the presiding NLRB officer (called a hearing examiner) will check authorization cards to make sure that there is sufficient interest. Then the examiner will make sure that there is sufficient interest. Then the examiner will hear any challenges by the employer (or conceivably by a rival union) to the nature of the proposed bargaining unit. Generally speaking, a unit cannot contain supervisors, plant guards in a unit with other workers, or both nonprofessional and professional unless the professionals ( nurses, teachers, engineers, etc.) agree. Beyond these restrictions the wishes of the employees as to the nature of the bargaining unit are usually controlling. However this is not always so. An employer could argue that your unit is too narrowly defined (for example, suppose it only included body shop workers in an auto repair garage) and the NLRB might agree in which case your petition could be denied.**

**d) If your bargaining unit is approved, the NLRB will establish an election date (or dates) and designate polling places. On the day of the election, an NLRB officer will be at your workplace where he/she will set up a polling booth. The employer and the union have a right to assign poll watchers and to challenge any person whom they think should not be allowed to vote. Voting is done by secret ballot; the name of the union plus "no union" appear on the ballot. Depending upon the size of the unit and the number of polling places, the ballots may be counted right away or sealed and counted at a central location.**

**e) If the union wins and there are no challenges to the election, the NLRB will then certify the union and bargaining can then commence. The election may be challenged if one party accuses the other of unfair labor practices during the election. The NLRB or the courts can throw out an election and order a new one if they feel that unfair labor practices seriously affected the election's outcome.**

**f) It is possible, but rare, that the NLRB will certify a union without an election if the employer's conduct is such that a fair election is impossible. For example, some employers create a climate of fear during an election campaign by firing, transferring, and/or demoting union supporters; by interrogating works about their union sympathies or to find out who the leaders are; by threatening to close down the plant or even to physically harm the employees; by offering raises or bribes; etc. In such cases, the NLRB has the power to order certification for the union even if it loses the election, because a fair election is no longer possible. Usually, before it will do this, the NLRB requires that a majority of the original workers in the proposed bargaining unit sign authorization cards.**

**From Michael Yates, *Labor Law Handbook*, South End Press, Boston, MA, 1987.**

## (Sidewalk, continued)

nance and have lobbied for it with the support of some citizens, while other citizens and businesses have opposed the ordinance. This shows that there is not community consensus on the issue of restricting people's specific behavior in public places. In a mediation process that came out of last year's tabling of the Sidewalk Ordinance, both pro and con representatives agreed that more benches and an education project would constructively deal with the congestion on downtown sidewalks.

We should congratulate ourselves because we preserved what rights we still have to public space. We made our city recognize (however temporarily) that the streets are not halls in a shopping mall and restricted to use only by those who are consuming constantly downtown. This proposed ordinance brought together a wide range of community members to stand up for each other: youth, homeless, civil rights activists, businesspeople, artisans, peddlers, and others. Thanks to everyone who helped.

The No-Sitting law would have given the police more discretionary power to harass our community's homeless people and youth. The cops played an active role in defining the ordinance and did research catered to proving the need for the ordinance. This law would have been redundant as Olympia already has a No Blocking the Sidewalk ordinance. The cops assured us that it wouldn't have been used much anyway -- So what was the point?

The police say they would have liked this Ordinance to use as a tool to move "unwanted persons" along. By criminalizing the legal act of sitting, the Ordinance would only have required an individual to stand to be lawful -- a petty and vindictive law. And as such it would not move people along. But I think there is a more sinister side to the "Ordinance as tool" and a review of Jaywalking will reveal it.

In 1997, according to the Olympia Police Department records, there was only one Jaywalking citation given out (April for crossing against a red light). But that's not the point of the law -- what it does is give the police the excuse to stop, question, and run background checks on people they either don't like the looks of and/or the people they think may have a warrant out on them. It's up to the discretion of the cops to decide who to enforce this ordinance upon. I invite city policy makers to ask the homeless and the youth downtown how many of them have been stopped for jaywalking, but generously let go with a warning when their names are clear of warrants. I have personally seen people stopped, lectured, ran-through the computer and released. (The Sheriff gave jaywalking tickets only to protesters demonstrating against Shell Oil, while area consumers were able to cross the street where ever they wanted under the watchful (and permissive) eyes of both county and city police.) When people do have an outstanding warrant on them, that is the reason they are brought in, and the jaywalking violation is ignored.

What a tool these ordinances provide for the police! I think there should be an independent review of the way these ordinances are used and upon whom they are used. There should also be an education component to let people know what the laws are and what their rights are.

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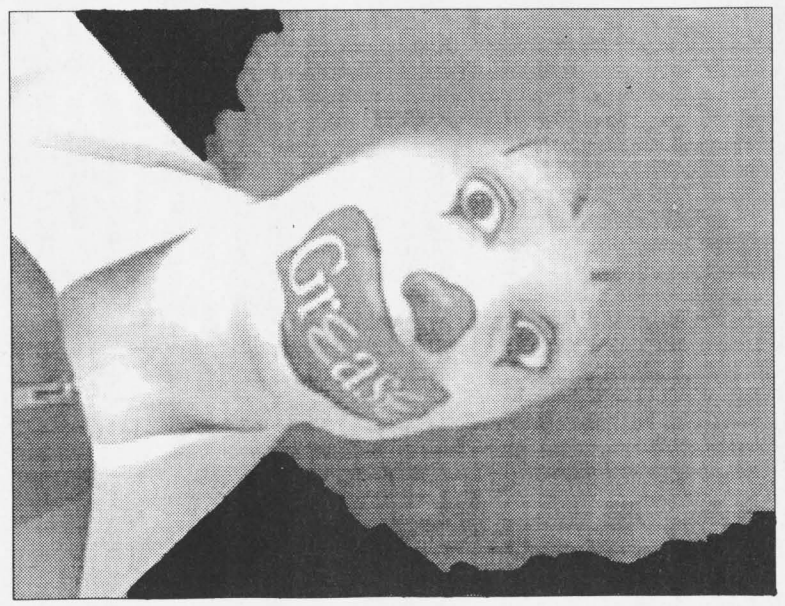


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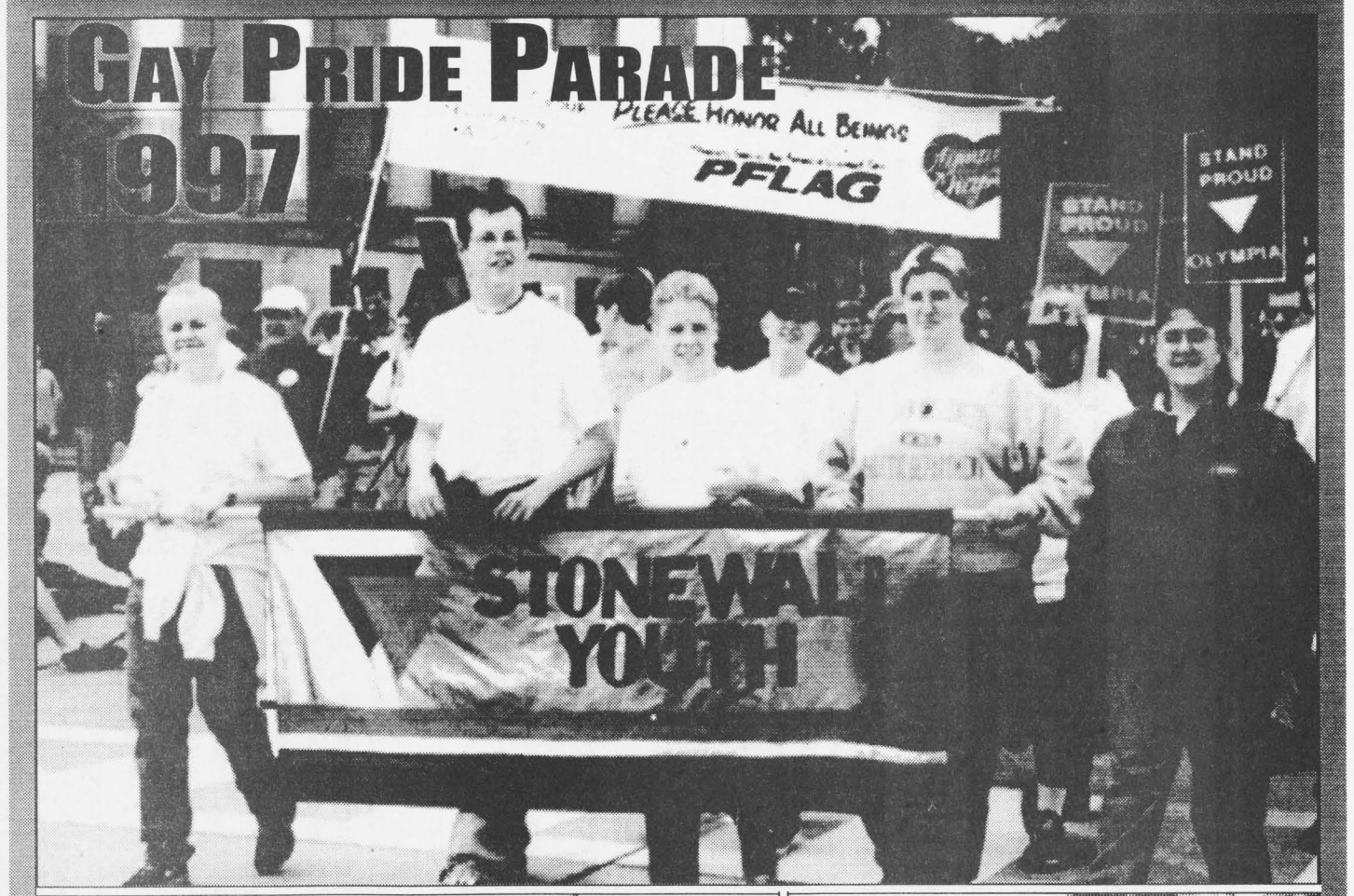

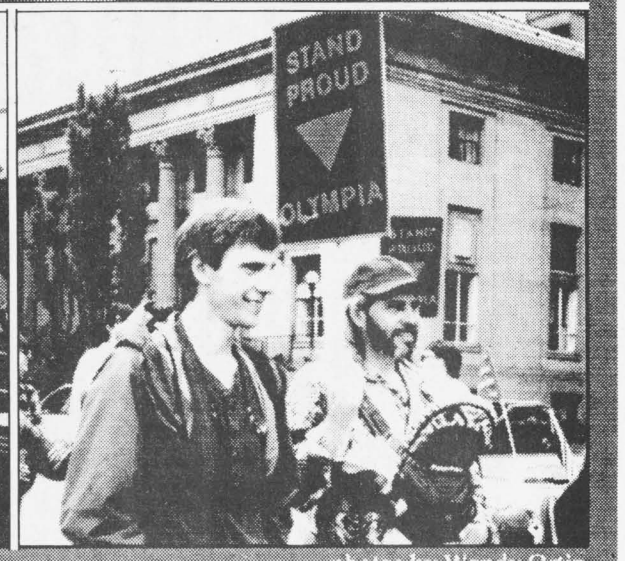


photos by Wendy Ortiz